



GENERAL LEGAL ACTIVITIES Office of Legal Counsel (OLC)

FY 2021 Budget Request At A Glance	
FY 2020 Enacted:	\$8.1 million (32 positions; 26 attorneys)
Current Services Adjustments:	+\$1.1 million
Program Changes:	+\$198,000
FY 2021 Budget Request:	\$9.4 million (33 positions; 27 attorneys)
Change From FY 2020 Enacted:	+\$1.3 million (+15.8%) (+1 position; +1 attorney)

Mission:

The mission of the Office of Legal Counsel (OLC) is to assist the Attorney General in his role as legal adviser to the President and Executive Branch departments and agencies. The OLC also serves as arbiter of legal disputes within the Executive Branch; provides general legal assistance to other components of the Department, including where litigation or proposed legislation raises constitutional issues or general issues of executive authority; and reviews for form and legality all Executive Orders and substantive Proclamations and many presidential Memoranda, as well as all proposed Orders of the Attorney General and all regulations requiring Attorney General approval.

Resources:

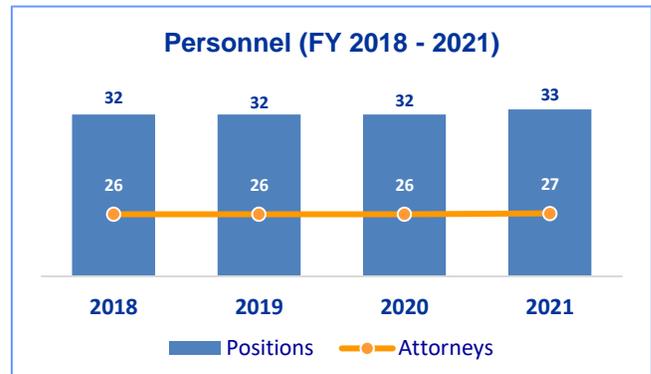
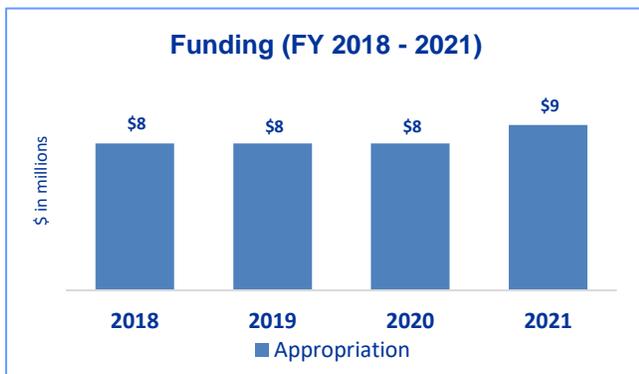
The FY 2021 budget request for the OLC totals \$9.4 million, which is a 15.8 percent increase over the FY 2020 Enacted.

Organization:

The OLC is headed by an Assistant Attorney General (AAG) who is appointed by the President with the advice and consent of the Senate. The AAG is supported by a Principal Deputy Assistant Attorney General, four career and political Deputies, and 26 staff attorneys and paraprofessionals, all located in Washington, DC.

Personnel:

The OLC's direct authorized positions for FY 2021 total 33 positions, including an increase of one position over the FY 2020 Enacted of 32 direct authorized positions.



FY 2021 Strategy:

The OLC mission remains critical as the Department confronts national security and intelligence challenges and advises various Executive Branch departments and agencies about priorities of the Administration.

The OLC's attorneys are involved in reviewing hundreds of pieces of pending legislation annually for constitutionality and is the principal office providing legal advice to the White House and Executive Branch departments and agencies concerning their responses to congressional oversight inquiries.

The OLC's challenges are of both an internal and external nature. The OLC generally does not initiate any programs, nor does it have control over the volume of its work. The work results from requests for opinions and legal advice from the Counsel to the President; general counsels of Executive Branch departments and agencies; and the Attorney General and other Department of Justice officials.

The lack of control over this externally driven workload has been and is likely to remain a constant challenge to OLC's mission, and is inherent in all aspects of the Office's work, including reviewing legislation, testimony, and presidential and Attorney General documents.

FY 2021 Program Changes:

Attorney Position: \$198,000 and 1 position (1 attorney)
Attorney Position

A program increase of 1 attorney position, 1 FTE and \$197,660 in support of the Department's Strategic Goal #4 (Promote Rule of Law, Integrity, and Good Government) is necessary in meeting the responsibilities of the Office in its role as legal advisor to the President and Executive Branch agencies. Current services for this initiative are \$9.2 million and 32 positions (26 attorneys).

Office of Legal Counsel
(Dollars in Thousands)

	Office of Legal Counsel		
	Pos	FTE	Amount
2019 Appropriation	32	28	7,951
2020 Enacted	32	28	8,114
2021 Request	33	29	9,393
Change 2021 from 2020 Enacted	1	1	1,279
Technical Adjustments			
Total Technical Adjustments	0	0	0
Base Adjustments			
Pay & Benefits	0	0	144
Domestic Rent & Facilities	0	0	384
Other Adjustments	0	0	553
Total Base Adjustments	0	0	1,081
2021 Current Services	32	28	9,195
Program Changes			
Increases:			
Attorney Position	1	1	198
Subtotal, Program Increases	1	1	198
Decreases:			
Subtotal, Program Decreases	0	0	0
Total Program Changes	1	1	198
2021 Request	33	29	9,393

Office of Legal Counsel

(Dollars in Thousands)

Comparison by activity and program	2020 Enacted			2021 Current Services		
	Pos.	FTE	Amount	Pos.	FTE	Amount
Office of Legal Counsel	32	28	8,114	32	28	9,195
Total	32	28	8,114	32	28	9,195

Comparison by activity and program	2021 Total Program Changes			2021 Request		
	Pos.	FTE	Amount	Pos.	FTE	Amount
Office of Legal Counsel	1	1	198	33	29	9,393
Total	1	1	198	33	29	9,393